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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

RACING & SPORTS COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 3014
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. C1A 7N9

June 10, 1986

Hon. Gilbert Clements
Minister Responsible for the P.E.I.
Horse Racing & Sports Commission
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 7N8

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Commission it is my privilege to submit to you the report of the activities of the Prince Edward Island Horse Racing and Sports Commission for the year ended March 31, 1986.

It has been a privilege to serve and we on the Commission look to the future with optimism for the Harness Racing Industry on P.E.I.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Ross Lefurgey
Chairman

WRL/ja

Attachment

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HORSE RACING & SPORTS COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1986

During the year the Commission met thirty two (32) times. Ten of these meetings were to hear appeals from horsemen, four meetings were held to deal directly with the allocation of race dates, six meetings were held with the various governing bodies and the remainder were general meetings to deal with the Commissions regular business.

In August of 1985 the Commission revamped its Rules and Regulations. This exercise was perceived to be only a small step towards a project that will require a great deal of time and effort to complete. That project being the writing of a Rule Book for Harness Racing on P.E.I. The Commission and their legal council along with the various organizations participating in the industry, have recognized the need for such a rule book and are patiently waiting for it.

In the Fall of 1985 the Commission faced its annual dilemma of allocating race dates for the coming calendar year. The initial allocation of the race dates met with severe opposition from the Charlottetown Driving Park and its horsemen prompting a meeting between the Commission and representatives of C.D.P., at which time the problems of race dates for 1986 were resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

In January of 1986 the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the Commission attended the annual meeting of Race Tracks Canada Inc. in Ottawa while the other two Commission members attended the annual meeting of U.S.T.A., District 10 in Truro, N.S. All of the Commissions across the country were represented at the Ottawa meetings and all sessions at which the Commissions participated proved to be very interesting and informative. Both the Chairman and Executive Secretary agree that the Commission should make an effort to attend these meetings every year.

In the Summer of 1985 the sport of Stock Car Racing was revitalized. The governing of Dragstip Racing and Stock Car Racing is also the responsibility of the P.E.I. Horse Racing and Sports Commission as well as horse racing. Stock Car Racing on P.E.I. had been nonexistent for over ten years until the businessmen who have operated Oyster Bed Dragway for the past number of years, built a stock car track to compliment their dragstrip operation. The new track was built adjacent to the dragstrip in Oyster Bed and operated very successfully in 1985.

In the Fall of 1985 the Commission received three or four informal enquiries regarding the building of additional stock car tracks and it appears that there will be at least one more track in operation during 1986, that being in Dunstaffnage. It is almost certain that as more tracks are built the Commission will be faced with the perplexing problem of allocating race dates to the satisfaction of all and in the best interest of the industry.

The year closed out on an optimistic note for the Harness Racing Industry on P.E.I. as both tracks on the Island were experiencing significant increases in their total bets and the "bet" is the lifeblood of the industry.